

What is claimed is:

1. A method of assembling a muntin bar lattice for use in an insulating glass unit, comprising the steps of:

providing a muntin bar segment having a wall;

5 providing a keeper dimensioned for piercing the wall of the muntin bar segment; and  
piercing the wall of the muntin bar with the keeper.

2. The method of claim 1, further including the step of positioning the keeper in a desired position in which a first portion of the keeper extends beyond a first side of the muntin  
10 bar segment and a second portion of the keeper extends beyond a second side of the muntin bar segment.

3. ~~The method of claim 2, further including the step of locking the keeper in the~~  
~~desired position.~~

15 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing a keeper comprises the step  
of providing a keeper including a lock.

5. The method of claim 2, further including the step of inserting the second portion  
20 of the keeper into a cavity of a second muntin bar segment.

6. The method of claim 2, further including the step of inserting the first portion of  
the keeper into a cavity of a third muntin bar segment.

7. A keeper for joining a muntin bar segment to a second muntin bar segment, comprising:

an elongate body having a proximal end and a distal end;

the body having a tip portion disposed at the proximal end thereof; and

the tip portion being dimensioned for piercing a wall of the muntin bar segment to create an opening therein.

8. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the body has an overall thickness that is less than an overall thickness of the muntin bar.

9. The keeper of claim 8, wherein the body has an overall thickness that is less than about half the overall thickness of the muntin bar.

10. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the tip portion of the body comprises a first cutting edge

11. The keeper of claim 10, wherein the first cutting edge has a length that is substantially equal to a thickness of the body.

12. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the tip portion of the body includes a second cutting edge disposed at a first angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the body.

13. The keeper of claim 12, wherein the tip portion of the body includes a third cutting edge disposed at a second angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the body.

5 14. The keeper of claim 13, wherein the second angle is substantially equal to the first angle.

15. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the body is substantially symmetrical about a longitudinal axis thereof.

10 16. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the body is substantially symmetrical about a lateral axis thereof.

15 17. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the body has an overall width dimensioned to be received in a cavity of the second muntin bar segment.

18. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first modulus of elasticity and the keeper comprises a material having a second modulus of elasticity greater than the first modulus of elasticity.

20 19. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first yield strength and the keeper comprises a material having a second yield strength greater than the first yield strength.

20. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the muntin bar segment comprises a material having a first hardness and the keeper comprises a material having a second hardness greater than the first hardness.

5 21. The keeper of claim 7, wherein the muntin bar segment comprises aluminum and the keeper comprises stainless steel.

22. The keeper of claim 7, further including a lock for holding the keeper in a desired position relative to the muntin bar segment.

10 23. The keeper of claim 22, wherein the lock includes a ramping surface that is dimension to elastically deform the wall of the muntin bar segment.

15 24. The keeper of claim 22, wherein the lock includes a locking surface that is dimension to cooperate with the wall of the muntin bar segment to prevent retrograde motion of the keeper.

20 25. A spacer for the separation of panes in an insulating glass unit, comprising:  
a tubular member comprising a wall defining a lumen;  
a mounting flange comprising a first portion of the wall that is doubled back upon itself;  
and  
a plurality of mounting holes defined by the mounting flange.

26. The spacer of claim 25, further including a second mounting flange comprising a second portion of the wall that is doubled back upon itself.

5 27. The spacer of claim 25, further including a seam formed between a first leg of the mounting flange and a second leg of the mounting flange.

28. The spacer of claim 25, wherein the mounting holes are dimensioned to receive a plurality of prongs of a clip.

10 29. The spacer of claim 25, further including a plurality of granules disposed within the lumen.

30. The spacer of claim 29, wherein the granules comprise a desiccant.

15 31. The spacer of claim 29, wherein the granules comprise clay.

32. A spacer for the separation of panes in an insulating glass unit, comprising:  
a tubular member defining a first lumen and a second lumen;  
a seal interposed between the first lumen and the second lumen; and  
20 a plurality of mounting holes communicating with the second lumen and separated from  
the first lumen by the seal.

33. The spacer of claim 32, wherein the mounting holes are dimensioned to receive a plurality of prongs of a clip.

34. The spacer of claim 32, further including a plurality of granules disposed within  
5 the first lumen.

35. The spacer of claim 34, wherein the granules comprise a desiccant.

36. The spacer of claim 34, wherein the granules comprise clay.

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